

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 9 remain in this application. Claims 1 – 4, 6, and 8 – 9 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments noted is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1 – 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to specifically point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specific clarifications and corrections were requested in the Office Action. Also, applicant is requested to review all of the claims for compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112.

The claims have been amended extensively to improve the grammar and syntax of the claims, to improve the format of the claims, to provide sufficient antecedent basis for the limitations in the claims, and to clarify the meaning of the limitations in the claims. No new matter has been added to the claims.

Further, with respect to question raised regarding “opposite sides of what,” applicant notes that the reversible knife includes two cutting bevel edges disposed at opposite sides of the reversible knife. In other words, the cutting bevel edges are at opposite sides of the reversible knife.

With respect to the question “does the longitudinal axis extend on both sides of the boundary surface or does the reversible knife extend on both sides of the boundary surface,” applicant notes that the locking piece runs parallel to a longitudinal axis of the reversible knife, and the locking piece extends on both sides of a boundary surface between the reversible knife and the counter knife.

With respect to the statement that “it is not clear as to whether the locking piece is an integral part of either the reversible knife or the counter knife or if the locking piece is merely fixed relative to either the reversible knife or counter knife,” applicant notes that the locking piece forms an integral part of either the reversible knife or the counter knife.

With respect to the statement that “it is not clear how the acute angle α is formed, i.e. counter surfaces of what,” applicant notes that the counter knife has two counter

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surfaces that are shown by reference numerals 22 and 23 in FIGS. 3a and 3b. The counter surfaces of the counter knife rest on the knife frame. Further, the counter surfaces are adjacent to each other and together form the acute angle α as shown in FIGS. 3a and 3b.

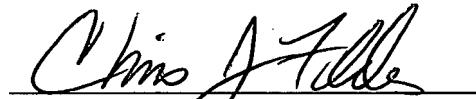
For these reasons, applicant submits that the claims as amended are clear and definite and respectfully requests that the Section 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 1 – 9 be withdrawn.

This amendment and request for reconsideration is felt to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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